



NEW YEAR!

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's

# South Atlantic Update

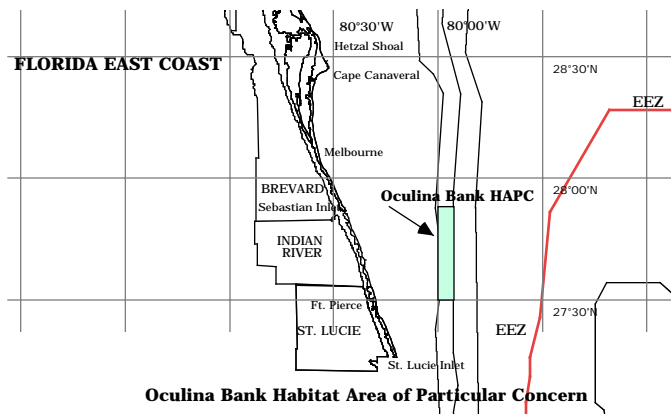
Published for fishermen & women and others interested in marine conservation

## Council Votes to Expand Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern

In order to protect the fragile *Oculina* coral formations found in the Oculina Bank off the coast of Ft. Pierce, FL, the council will request an interim measure to expand the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) by two miles on each side. All regulations effective in the HAPC as outlined in the council's Coral Fishery Management Plan will apply to the expanded area.

The council has moved forward with this action based upon information from law enforcement officials that the 92-square mile rectangular-shaped HAPC is difficult to patrol and enforce, because boats can very quickly maneuver out of the restricted area before enforcement vessels reach them.

Research video presented to the council in August shows severely damaged and crushed corals in the HAPC, many entangled with fishing line, proving that there are violators disregarding federal restrictions in that area. The expanded area will allow for better coral and habitat protection by doubling the width of the 4 mile-wide area, which will enhance enforcement efforts.



### Current HAPC Regulations as Outlined in the Coral Plan (all will apply in the 2-mile expansion)

- Fishing with bottom longlines, traps, pots, dredges, or bottom trawls is prohibited in the HAPC.
- A fishing vessel may not anchor, use an anchor and chain, or use a grapple and chain in the Oculina Bank HAPC.
- Possession of *Oculina* coral is prohibited.
- Trawling for, or possessing rock shrimp in the HAPC (and an expanded area up to 28°30'N latitude) is prohibited.

Many of the draft actions in the council's Comprehensive Habitat Amendment pertain to the Oculina HAPC (see page 9). These actions are aimed at supporting enforcement efforts and further protecting the coral formations. This interim measure will achieve these goals until proposed measures in the Habitat Amendment are approved and implemented.

The council will submit the interim measure request in late February, and the HAPC expansion will take effect upon publication of the final rule in the Federal Register.

For more information about the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern call the council office and request the Oculina brochure.

## Announcements

### Council Still Accepting Applications for New Dolphin/Wahoo and Marine Reserves Advisory Panels

**Calico Scallop:** Commercial seat from North Carolina (harvesters and dealers)

**Dolphin-fish/Wahoo:** This is a new panel and we are looking for full representation;

**Marine Reserves:** This panel is also new, and we are looking for representatives from the fishing community as well as environmentalists and scientists who are knowledgeable about the use of marine reserves as a management tool.

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**C**ommercial fishermen from all four states are encouraged to apply to the Dolphin/Wahoo and Marine Reserves Advisory Panels. The council will appoint members to the dolphin panel in March. Call the council office today for an application!

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### Council Welcomes New Advisory Panel Members

Dr. Henry Feddern of Tavernier, Florida and Mr. Stephen Blair of Miami, Florida were appointed to the Coral Advisory Panel;

Mr. Roland Meyers of Little Torch Key, Florida was appointed to the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel;

Mr. William Whipple of Westport, Massachusetts was appointed to the Golden Crab Advisory Panel;

Ms. Karen Raine of St. Petersburg, Florida and Captain Homer Bryson of Brunswick, Georgia were appointed to the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel.

### Council Appoints Five New members to the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Mr Douglas Gregory of Key West, Florida  
Dr. Benjamin Blount of Athens Georgia  
Dr. John Dean of Columbia, South Carolina  
Dr. Arvind Shah of Mobile, Alabama  
Dr. James Beets of Jacksonville, Florida

**Welcome aboard new AP and SSC members!**

### 1998 Council Meeting Schedule

March 2-6	Jekyll Island Club 371 Riverview Drive Jekyll Island, Georgia
June 15-19	Ponce de Leon 4000 US HWY 1 North St. Augustine, Florida
September 21-25	Town & Country Inn 2008 Savannah Highway Charleston, South Carolina
Nov. 30-Dec. 4	Ramada Inn 1701 S. Virginia Dare Trail, Kill Devil Hills, NC

The *South Atlantic Update* will be published quarterly beginning in 1998. The tentative publishing schedule is:

**April, 1998**  
**July, 1998**  
**October, 1998**  
**December, 1998**

### Commonly Used Acronyms

ABC - Allowable Biological Catch  
AP - Advisory Panel  
ASMFC - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
BRD - Bycatch Reduction Device  
EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zone  
EFH - Essential Fisheries Habitat  
FMP - Fishery Management Plan  
HAPC - Habitat Area of Particular Concern  
ITQ - Individual Transferable Quota  
MSY - Maximum Sustainable Yield  
NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service  
NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NOPS - Notice of Permit Sanction  
NOVA - Notice of Violation Assessment  
OY - Optimum Yield  
SMZ - Special Management Zone  
SPR - Spawning Potential Ratio  
SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee  
TAC - Total Allowable Catch  
TED - Turtle Excluder Device

# Fishermen, Scientists & Managers Must Work Together!



by  
Gregg T. Waugh  
Deputy Executive Director



(The views expressed are mine alone and are not meant to reflect the views of the South Atlantic Council. If you have questions, would like more details, or would like to comment on the views expressed, please contact me at the Council office or via the internet at [gregg.waugh@noaa.gov](mailto:gregg.waugh@noaa.gov).)

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“Fishery Stock Assessment” should include the biological information about the species as is currently done. However, where we fall short is not including economic and social factors within the computer model. Why is this information lacking?

1. Biologists got there first and many in the system feel this is the most important information. That is, management should be based on “good” biological information and let the chips fall where they may.

2. While the biological information is not as good as we would like, at least there is some. The levels of economic information are beginning to increase but fishermen, dealers and processors are all VERY reluctant to provide economic information.

3. Social information is the new kid on the block. So new in fact, that many in the system are still trying to understand just what “social information” includes, much less how it would be used to actually make

a management decision.

There are two factors which would greatly improve cooperation and trust within the management process:

1. Fishermen and scientists **MUST** talk and work together. Fishermen are expert observers by virtue of the thousands and thousands of hours spent on the water. Where fishermen get into trouble is in interpreting what they see. On the other hand, scientists are expert interpreters - that is what they are trained to do. Where scientists get into trouble is making their interpretations based on tens or hundreds of observations rather than the thousands of observations by fishermen. By getting these two groups together in **MEANINGFUL** discussions where there is actually some give and take, the strengths of one group can complement the weaknesses of the other group.

2. Provide the required biological, economic and social data. To still be attempting to estimate the numbers of vessels, fishermen and catch this late in

the management process is a major shortcoming. The models cannot yield more accurate results without more accurate input. Remember, garbage in - garbage out. Fishermen, dealers and processors are going to have to trust the management process and provide accurate biological, economic and social information.

“Groundtruthing” the scientific conclusions with fishermen, and increasing the quantity and accuracy of biological, economic and social data being provided will provide input parameters for a dynamic computer model which accounts for biological, economic and social impacts in reaching a management decision.

In my opinion we have two choices. Hop off the merry-go-round for a short time and get our data collection, research programs, and assessments right **OR** continue to withhold or not collect information and critique the management process as flawed. The choice is ours.

**editor's note:** See article on page 6 concerning the ACCSP and how fishermen can help improve data collection efforts coast-wide.

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### New Black Sea Bass Pot Specifications in Snapper Grouper Amendment 9

When Amendment 9 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan becomes effective, black sea bass pots will be required to have a minimum unobstructed escape vent opening of 1 and 1/8" x 5 and 3/4" for rectangular vents, 1.75" x 1.75" for square vents (inside measure), or 2" diameter for circular vents. Also, pots will require a minimum of 2 vents that must be located on opposite vertical panels of the pot. In effect, this excludes the top or bottom as locations for the escape vents.

A black sea bass pot or trap that is used or possessed in the South Atlantic EEZ north of 28° 35.1'N. latitude is required to have on at least one side, excluding top or bottom, a panel or door with an opening equal to or larger than the interior end of the trap's throat (funnel). The hinges and fasteners of each panel or door must be made of either of the following degradable material:

- (1) ungalvanized or uncoated iron wire no larger than 19 gauge or 0.041 inches diameter,
- (2) galvanic timed release mechanisms no letter grade higher than "J".

\* It should be noted that black sea bass pots are currently required to have degradable panels/fasteners. The proposed action modifies the specification of material acceptable as fasteners.

### Snapper Grouper Fishermen Reminded of Upcoming Limited Entry Program

The council is expecting implementation of Snapper Grouper Amendment 8 in January, 1998, which will bring management of this fishery under a limited entry program.

Once the program is in place, only fishermen who meet the following criteria will be eligible for an Atlantic federal snapper grouper non-transferable commercial permit:

- #1: Can demonstrate any amount of landings of snapper grouper species from South Atlantic federal waters between January 1, 1993 and August 20, 1996; AND
- #2: Held a valid South Atlantic federal snapper grouper permit between 2/11/96 - 2/11/97.

**Fishermen meeting the above criteria will be limited to a 225-pound trip limited permit.**

- #3: In order to qualify for a transferable permit with no trip limit, fishermen must in addition demonstrate that they harvested at least 1,000 pounds of snapper grouper species within any one of the years, 1993, 1994, 1995, or 1996 (up to August 20).

Fishermen who wish to enter the snapper grouper fishery once the limited entry program is implemented must obtain two valid transferable permits.

## Law Enforcement Report

Peter Simon Bilderback/James Welch: Swordfish Violation. Two count Notice of Violation Assessment issued: Count 1 - undersized swordfish \$10,000; Count 2 - filleted swordfish \$2,000. Also recieved 30-day Notice of Permit Sanction and forfeited \$4,174.80 and the fillets.



Billy Baird: Two count Notice of Violation Assessment Issued: Count 1 - fishing for and retaining South Atlantic snapper grouper in or from the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern, which is an experimental closed area, \$2,000; and Count 2 - disposal of fish, \$3,000. Mr. Baird also received a 30-day Notice of Permit Sanction.

Marion Laurence Seithel/Seithel Enterprises, Inc.: Two count Notice of Violation Assessment Issued: Count 1 - disposal of fish, \$3,000; Count 2 - undersized snapper grouper species on board, \$1,000.

**To Report  
Fishery Violations  
Call:**

**1-800-853-1964**

**NOAA ENFORCEMENT  
24-Hours/7 days**

## Dennis Spitsbergen, NC Council Member, Retires



*Council Chairman, Ben Hartig, presents Dennis Spitsbergen with a plaque in honor of his dedication to fishery conservation through the years.*

After 28 years working with the North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, Dennis Spitsbergen has announced his retirement.

The South Atlantic Council would like to extend its appreciation to Dennis for the 12 years he served as the NC state representative to the council. His hard work and conscientious decision-making will be sorely missed.

*Good luck to you Dennis!*

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## March Meeting Activities

The Spring meeting will be held March 2-6, 1998 on Jekyll Island, Georgia. The following are some of the activities that will take place:

The **Mackerel Committee** will review Amendment 9 public hearing comments and approve the amendment for Secretarial review;

The **Habitat Committee** will meet jointly with the Habitat and Coral Advisory Panels to review the draft habitat plan and comprehensive amendment, and develop recommendations on items to include in the document for public hearing;

The **Snapper Grouper Committee** will meet jointly with the **Wreckfish Advisory Panel** to review the Wreckfish Framework items and develop recommendations for setting the 1998-1999 wreckfish quota;

The Snapper Grouper Committee will also meet to discuss the Special Management Zone Framework, discuss the overfished status of snapper grouper species, and review greater amberjack catches over the last 2 years and implications for the quota established in Amendment 9. The committee will also discuss the council's interim request to implement measures in Amendment 9 before March, 1998;

Other Committees:

The **Advisory Panel Selection Committee; Bluefish Committee; Shrimp Committee; and Marine Reserves Committee** will meet.

The council is scheduled to take **public comment** and final action on Mackerel Amendment 9, the wreckfish and Special Management Zone framework action, and the Shrimp BRD framework action. It will also approve the Habitat Plan and Comprehensive Amendment for public hearing.

## Tired Of Poor Data? Do Something About It!

by Gregg T. Waugh, Deputy Executive Director

**ACCSP on the Internet: [www.safmc.nmfs.gov/accsphm/accsp.html](http://www.safmc.nmfs.gov/accsphm/accsp.html)**

Tired of the poor quality of data being used in assessments and for fishery management decisions? Want to do something about it rather than just complain? Now is your chance! A lot of effort on the part of many individuals has gone into developing a plan to redesign the entire east coast data collection program.

You are now being given a chance to voice your views on how that system should be structured. I know many of you are frustrated and skeptical; so am I. I have worked for the South Atlantic Council for 17 years; data collection and our confidence in the results are at an all-time low. But you know, we don't have any choice but to participate if we want the data to get better.

**I** very strongly believe the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) process provides the opportunity to improve our data and the resulting stock assessments and fishery management decisions. That's why I have worked on the Operations Committee for the past two years. The South Atlantic Council supports the program through my time and travel expenses, as well as the involvement of other Council staff - Bob Mahood (ACCSP Council), Roger Pugliese (Recreational & Commercial Technical Committees), Theo Brainerd (Economic Committee), Mike Jepson (Social Input and Fishing Community

Subcommittee), and Susan Buchanan (Informational Workgroup & Webpage development). We have done our part! Please don't miss this opportunity to do your part!

A News Release and Public Discussion Primer are available through the South Atlantic Councils web page. The draft technical recommendations are available from the ACCSP Program Manager. Please review the recommendations and send your written comments to ACCSP Program Manager, 1444 Eye St., N.W., Sixth Floor, Washington, DC, 20005; FAX (202) 289-6051; Email: [Connie\\_Youngdvbovsky@fws.gov](mailto:Connie_Youngdvbovsky@fws.gov).

**Comments must be received by March 31, 1998.**

The South Atlantic Council will be holding its last scoping meeting to receive your input on March 3, 1998 beginning at 5:00 p.m. in Jekyll Island, Georgia at the Jekyll Club. The South Atlantic Council will be meeting during that week and the scoping meeting will be an excellent opportunity for you to talk with members about data collection and to comment on the ACCSP program. The Council will be finalizing their comments on the entire statistics program. Don't miss your final opportunity to help shape the data collection program. If you have any questions feel free to give me a call or contact me via email ([gregg.waugh@noaa.gov](mailto:gregg.waugh@noaa.gov)).

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## Council Develops Options for Habitat Plan; Committee to Approve document in March for Public Hearing

The council will review draft options for the Habitat Comprehensive Amendment, which will amend all council fishery management plans to comply with the new mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to address essential fish habitat.

Ten habitat workshops were conducted this year to identify fish habitats in the south Atlantic. Information compiled from these workshops will be used to create the initial Habitat Plan, which will act as a source document for the Habitat Amendment to all

plans.

The council will review draft options for the Amendment in March, and will approve the document for public hearing. A listing of the draft options to date is available on page 9.

The council will address additional Magnuson-Stevens mandates for overfishing, bycatch and fishing communities in another comprehensive amendment which will amend all council plans by early 1999.

## **Council Member, David Cupka Receives Distinguished Award for Fishery Conservation**

On October 22, 1997, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission recognized the enormous commitment of David M. Cupka to the conservation and management of Atlantic coast fisheries. The award was presented to Mr. Cupka at the Commission's 56th Annual Meeting in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

In presenting the award to his long-standing friend and colleague, Commission Chair Dr. Paul Sandifer stated, "Mr. Cupka has made contributions to the betterment of Atlantic fisheries through legislative, biological, enforcement and management activities. He has been involved in the Commission since 1977 in numerous roles. He is also involved with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Southeast Area Assessment and Monitoring Program..."

The council would like to congratulate David Cupka for this deserved honor.

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***BEST WISHES  
FOR THE NEW  
YEAR!  
FROM SOUTH  
ATLANTIC  
COUNCIL  
MEMBERS AND  
STAFF.***

## **March-April Closure to be Effective in 1998 For Gag, Red Porgy and Black Grouper**

The council will request the National Marine Fisheries Service implement measures in Snapper Grouper Amendment 9 before the proposed March/April closure in 1998 through interim measure.

If the request is approved, the commercial fishery for gag, red porgy and black grouper will be closed March and April, 1998. During this closure, no sale, transfer or barter of these species by recreational or commercial fishermen will be allowed. The interim measure will also implement changes in recreational retention limits, and minimum size limits.

The council will request the interim measure be implemented to protect these overfished species during the spawning season. This closure will provide an additional year's protection towards rebuilding these fish stocks.

For a listing of all actions contained in Amendment 9, call the council office at 803-571-4366.

## **National Marine Fisheries Service Requests Additional Language for BRD Testing Protocol**

The National Marine Fisheries Service has requested that the council include additional language in the Bycatch Reduction Device Testing Protocol Manual adopted by the council in 1996 through framework action.

The proposed language reads:

"The testing protocol is the acceptable testing methodology. However, actual testing conditions vary and may require deviation. All deviations from the protocol must be documented and justified, and individuals must be aware that the Regional Administrator (RA) can reject results from any testing series in which the RA deems deviations from the protocol to be scientifically unacceptable. Any deviations from the protocol may require significant additional samples."

The council has referred this language to the Scientific and Statistical Committee and Bycatch Reduction Device Advisory Panel for review and revision as necessary. The committee and advisory panel will meet to discuss the framework measure in February, and the council will review this request again at the March meeting.



## Council to Resubmit Mackerel Measure Allowing Sink Nets North of Cape Lookout, NC

In November, the council voted to resubmit the measure in Amendment 8 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan involving the use of sink nets in North Carolina that was disapproved by the Secretary of Commerce.

The measure stating "Drift net rules in place now only apply south of Cape Lookout..." will be resubmitted to allow the historic sink net fishery in North Carolina and the Mid-Atlantic region to continue. This measure was disapproved because the wording of the action implied that the councils were going to allow drift nets be used north of Cape Lookout.

In a letter to Wayne Swingle, Executive Director of the Gulf Council, Robert Mahood, South Atlantic Council Executive Director writes, "The primary reason for addressing this problem was the confusing definition of a drift gillnet included in the present regulations. There has never been a drift gill net fishery north of Cape Lookout, but with the current definition these sink nets could technically be construed as a drift net."

The council expects NMFS to approve this measure with the additional rationale.

The Gulf and South Atlantic councils submitted Amendment 8, which will create a permit moratorium on king mackerel permits, over a year and a half ago, and is currently waiting for implementation by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Once the amendment is implemented, fishermen who qualify for the moratorium permit must reapply for their permit within 90 days of publication of the final rule in the Federal Register.

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### Editor's Note:

*In the last edition of the South Atlantic Update, we incorrectly stated that the Amendment 8 disapproved measure concerned the sink net fishery north of Cape Hatteras. This should have stated, 'north of Cape Lookout, North Carolina'.*

*We apologize for this error.*

## Mackerel Amendment 9 Public Hearing to be Held at March Meeting

The council voted to delete all reference to measures that would affect fishermen on the Atlantic coast, then approved Amendment 9 to the Coastal Pelagic Fishery Management Plan for public hearing.

The Coastal Migratory Fishery Management Plan is jointly managed by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils, and the management jurisdiction extends through New York.

The South Atlantic Council's workload in the coming months would not allow for extended public hearings on the East coast through the management range, so the council chose Gulf Council alternatives that would not impact fishermen in the South Atlantic or Mid-Atlantic regions.

The Gulf Council is scheduled to review South Atlantic Council actions in January, and approve the document for public hearing in the Gulf.

The South Atlantic Council has scheduled one public hearing on Amendment 9, which will be held during the March meeting on Jekyll Island, GA.

We will distribute the document when the public hearing draft becomes available. For more information, or to obtain a copy, call the council office.

### Did You Know...

**That there are 18 overfished species in the South Atlantic? They are:**

Jewfish	Warsaw Grouper
Nassau Grouper	Golden Tilefish
Vermilion Snapper	White Grunt
Red Porgy	Black Sea Bass
Gag	Gray Triggerfish
Red Snapper	Yellowtail Snapper
Scamp	Wreckfish
Speckled Hind	Black Grouper
Snowy Grouper	Red Drum

There are 15 Species not overfished, and an additional 51 species which the overfished status is unknown. Rebuilding plans for overfished species have been implemented or will be implemented in the near future.



## Comprehensive Habitat Amendment Draft List of Actions

The following list constitutes measures the council is currently considering for inclusion in the Comprehensive Habitat Amendment. These measures will be reviewed and possibly revised at the March 2-6, 1998 meeting in Jekyll Island, Georgia before the document is approved for public hearing.

### Penaeid and Rock Shrimp

- ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Penaeid and Rock Shrimp
- ACTION 2. Require Use of Transponders by Rock Shrimp Vessels Fishing in the South Atlantic EEZ

### Red Drum

- ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Red Drum

### Snapper Grouper

- ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Snapper Grouper
- ACTION 2. Prohibit All Fishing in the Experimental Closed Area

### Coastal Migratory Pelagics

- ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Coastal Migratory Pelagics
- ACTION 2. Prohibit Fishing for Coastal Migratory Pelagics in the Experimental Closed Area

### Golden Crab

- ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Golden Crab

### Spiny Lobster

- ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Spiny Lobster
- ACTION 2. Prohibit Fishing for Spiny Lobster in the Experimental Closed Area

### Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitat

- ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region
- ACTION 2. Expand the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) to an area bounded to the west by 80°W longitude, to the north by 28°30' N latitude, to the south by 27°30' N latitude, and to the east by the 100 fathom (600 feet) depth contour.

### Calico Scallops

- ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Calico Scallops
- ACTION 2. Establish a Fishery Management Plan for the Calico Scallop Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
- ACTION 3. Prohibit Harvest of Calico Scallops in the Area Closed to Rock Shrimp Fishing
- ACTION 4. Require Use of Transponders by Calico Scallop Vessels

The following two options are being considered with no preferred option:

- Option A. Require Use of Transponders by Calico Scallop Vessels in the South Atlantic EEZ
- Option B. Require Use of Transponders by Calico Scallop Vessels Fishing in the South Atlantic EEZ South of 28° 30' N. Latitude

### Sargassum

- ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Sargassum
- ACTION 2. Establish a Fishery Management Plan for Sargassum Habitat of the South Atlantic Region
- ACTION 3. Prohibit Harvest and/or Possession of Pelagic Sargassum in the South Atlantic EEZ
- ACTION 4. Implement a Framework Procedure to Allow Experimental Fishing

### Dolphin/Wahoo

- ACTION 1. Identify Essential Fish Habitat for Dolphin and Wahoo
- ACTION 2. Establish a Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the South Atlantic Region

### Council Proposes Transponders for Rock Shrimp and Calico Scallop Vessels

The South Atlantic Council is including for consideration in the Habitat Comprehensive Amendment options which would require the use of transponders on rock shrimp and calico scallop vessels in the south Atlantic EEZ.

These options are being considered to aid law enforcement efforts in the Oculina Bank HAPC, including the expanded area North of the HAPC closed to rock shrimping, and other areas in the region where essential fish habitat may be disturbed by rock shrimp and scallop trawls.

Another option in the amendment would close the expanded area to calico scallop trawling as well.

The council will review these options in March and approve them for public hearings, which will be held in the south Atlantic in June, 1998. The Habitat Comprehensive Amendment is scheduled for final council action in September, 1998.

## *Hey folks!*

We'd like to dedicate some space in each issue to contributions from our readers, so if you have a poem, recipe, or some other interesting tidbit, send it in! Don't forget the viewpoints page, which is available for editorials and letters to the editor. Read the following poem, contributed by Kim Ostrander, which gives us insight to the fishing life from a slightly different perspective...

### *A Fisherman's Life*



He is my husband, a man of the sea  
I am his wife, he believes in me

We're friends and partners and all that can be  
The love and trust only we can see

The support from each other we hold in our hearts  
We know we're together, but yet we're apart

He has the boat ready to fish once again  
No time can be wasted there is no wind

He puts his arms around me and holds me for awhile  
At this time I say a prayer I look at him and smile

My heart is beating faster but yet it doesn't show  
He turns away and jumps aboard, the crew is ready to go

He goes in the wheelhouse to steer out to sea  
He looks out the door a last wave he gives me

As they throw the last ropes, I don't want him to go  
This could be the end of us, but neither of us knows

The boat is gone now, just out of my sight  
The clench in my chest is still very tight

I may get a call one day to say that it's bad news  
But to him the sea is worth it, his life he's willing to lose

Unlike the beach with all the sand  
The sea is much deeper, and you can't see land

No one really knows the dangers of the sea  
A whole different world between him and me

I think of him often while he is away  
I look at the clock he's dragging I'd say

Or maybe he's eating, he might be asleep  
I have no idea the schedule he keeps

He may be anchored if the wind blows too much  
Or to wait out a storm if the sea is too rough

The days have passed the work's been steady  
With shrimp in the freezer, all packed and ready

The trip is now over as he called to say  
I'm ready to come home, we are on our way

My heart is racing as it did before  
But now I'm relieved he'll be home once more

I tell the kids, your dad's on his way  
But when will he be here they all will say

Back at the dock with shrimp to be sold  
Looks like it will be a while I am always told

When the time finally comes and he's ready to leave  
It's to his recliner for rest and relieve

But always in a hurry he's at the boat again  
To scrub the deck or clean the galley and always torn nets to mend

The fuel is needed and groceries too  
There's parts to be ordered and laundry to do

Prepared and ready, he leaves once again  
The same routine that never ends

For a family of seven and not a lot of time  
The love we share makes it all fine

It doesn't really matter whether it's hours or days  
We spend our time together until he goes away

If you would say to me today, I'd like a fisherman's life-  
I'd say, 'no you wouldn't, just ask a fisherman's wife.'

*Written by Kim Ostrander of Merritt Island, Florida  
for her husband, Buster*

**Please contact the following state agencies for regulations up to three miles offshore (state waters) in the South Atlantic:**

Florida Marine Fisheries Commission  
2540 Executive Center Circle West, Suite 106  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(904) 487-0554

Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Coastal Resources Division  
One Conservation Way  
Brunswick, GA 31523-8600  
(912) 264-7218

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
P.O. Box 769  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
(919) 726-7021

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources  
Marine Resources Division  
P.O. Box 12559  
Charleston, SC 29412  
(803) 795-6350

The South Atlantic Council, one of eight U.S. regional fishery management councils, establishes conservation measures to ensure the viability of marine resources in federal waters (from three to two hundred nautical miles) off the coasts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and east Florida. Fishery Management Plans prepared by the council are designed to produce optimum yield, while preventing overfishing of our valuable resources. Council staff is available to answer questions during business hours by telephone at (803) 571-4366; by FAX at (803) 769-4520; or by E-Mail at [safmc@noaa.gov](mailto:safmc@noaa.gov).

### *Editor's Note*

The South Atlantic Update is published by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Its purpose is to report developments in fisheries management that would be of interest to its readers. Please credit the council when reprinting articles used in this newsletter. Anyone wishing to submit information or articles pertaining to fishing or fisheries management, or letters to the editor on a pertinent issue, is invited and encouraged to do so. Submissions may be mailed to Susan Buchanan, Editor, South Atlantic Update, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699, or may be sent via the internet; Email address: [Susan.Buchanan@noaa.gov](mailto:Susan.Buchanan@noaa.gov)



A publication of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council pursuant to

## **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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### **Appointed Obligatory Members**

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**Jodie Gay**  
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**Charles Stone**  
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### **Appointed At-Large Members**

**Ben Hartig, Chairman**  
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**Pete Moffitt, V. Chairr**  
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### **NMFS Regional Administrator**

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### **Non-Voting Members**

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## Upcoming Meetings:

**February 4-6, 1998** - Snapper Grouper  
Plan Development Team and Assessment  
Group, Charleston, SC

**February 23-25, 1998** - Workshop on  
Dolphin/Wahoo, Charleston, SC

**March 2-6, 1998** - Council Meeting,  
Jekyll Island, GA

**June, 1998** - Marine Reserves workshop,  
in conjunction with June council meeting  
in St. Augustine, FL

**TBA** - Scientific and Statistical  
Committee and Bycatch Reduction  
Device Advisory Panel

**TBA** - Law Enforcement Advisory Panel